

ROUTINE AGE READING UNIT--JUSTIFICATION

Carrying out routine age determination for the major New England fish stocks is a laborious, time-consuming, but necessary task, presently carried out on a part-time basis by six individual biologists in each of seven single species investigations. The data are required for assessing the effects of fishing upon the stocks and for carrying out population dynamics studies.

As validation of age reading techniques are completed, the readings become more routine and should then be carried out by specialized personnel who can read large numbers of scales, otoliths, or other structures more efficiently and with greater production. This will relieve biologists of such routine, time-consuming work and permit them to carry out more creative activities.

It is proposed that routine age determinations of haddock, redfish, scup, red hake and other industrial fishes, and flounders be started in 1961, of silver hake and cod in 1962, and in 1964, routine age determinations be started for pollock and other boreal groundfishes.

Routine age determinations of other species of interest will be phased into the project as the age method is validated and standardized.

August 6, 1959

SUMMARY CONTROL SCHEDULE

Investigation: **Age heading**
Biological Laboratory: **Woods Hole, Mass.**

[illegible]

*Total needed by Laboratory for Project in thousands of dollars.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

Sheet No. 1

Location: **Woods Hole, Mass.**
Date: **August 6, 1959**
File No.

Research Project Outline

Title of Project: **Routine Age Reading Unit**

Investigation Title: **Data Collection**

Investigation Chief: **Vacant** **F. P. B.** **GS-9**

Project Leader: **Vacant** **F. P. B.** **GS-9**

Name

Title

Grade

Assistants: (Title and Grade)

F. P. B. **GS-5**
Aide **GS-3**

Collaborators:

Need for Information: **Age compositions of New England landings of fishes are needed by the species projects to evaluate the populations of fishes and to carry out population dynamics studies.**

Objective: **To make routine readings of scales, otoliths and other structures for age determinations and submit reports of ages to species projects.**

Method of Procedure: **Prepare scales, otoliths, etc. for reading. Read and record ages.**

Phase 1: **Record ages and compute necessary back calculations.
Submit reports to the research projects.**

Phase 2:

Method of Procedure: (Cont'd)

Phase 3:

Estimated Costs: Total Needed by Laboratory for Complete Project			<u>93.4</u>
	FY <u>1957</u>	FY <u>1958</u>	FY <u>1959</u>
Personal Services	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>15.4</u>
Other Expenses:			
Within Project	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Lab. Adm. & Ser.	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>1.0</u>
Lab. Total	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>16.4</u>
Regional Office	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Washington Office	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Total	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>

Recommended Source of Funds _____
 (S-K, Regular, Contributed, etc.)

Estimated Date of Completion: Phase 1 FY 1957; Phase 2 FY 1958; Phase 3 FY 1959; Project FY 1959

Recommended by: _____ Date _____
 Originator _____
 Investigation Chief _____
 Laboratory Director _____
 Regional Director _____
 Branch Chief _____
 Approved by: _____
 Division Chief for Director _____

Remarks

(Continue on reverse side)